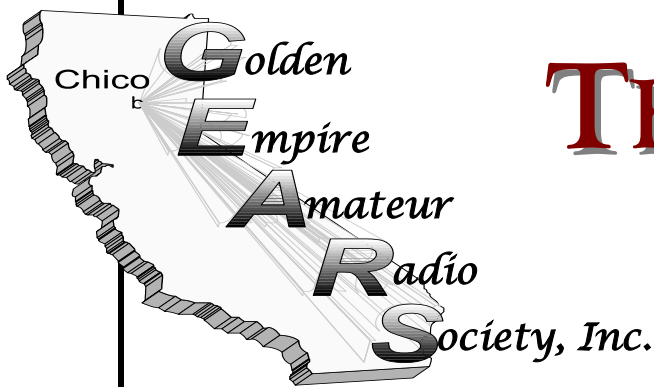


"Dedicated to Public Service"



THE RADIATOR



W6RHC
IRLP #8170
Echolink #322788



<http://www.gearsw6rhc.org>

P.O.Box 508 Chico, CA 95927-0508

Founded: August 13 1939

HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY GEARS

August, 2009

Coming Events

O.A.R.S. GENERAL MEETING

Friday, August 14th, 7:00 p.m., at Oroville Adult Education Building, Grand Avenue, behind the 7-11 store.

G.E.A.R.S GENERAL MEETING

-at Campout

Friday August 21 to Sunday August 23 are the dates for the annual GEARS Campout - Lassen Church Camp, Mineral, CA

BUTTE / GLENN A.R.E.S MEETING

Friday August 28th, : 7:00 p.m.

FCC EXAMS - G.E.A.R.S VEC

Sunday, October 4th, at the Butte County Search and Rescue Building, 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico. Written test at 2:00 p.m. For information or pre-registration call Gene, WA6ZRT, 345-3515

Club events

News & of interest items

GEARS Calendar all inside

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT OUR VERY EXCELLENT WEBSITE:

www.gearsw6rhc.org



Picture courtesy EVARC

TECHNICIAN CLASS TO BE OFFERED IN WILLOWS

Working in conjunction with the Sheriff's Association and the Veterans Council of Glenn County, N8GNV, John Hursey, is developing a Technician class which will be offered one night a week for ten weeks. The class will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, which is directly across the street from the Glenn County Courthouse in Willows. Classes will commence on Thursday September 3rd, and each Thursday thereafter from 7PM to 8PM.

The project is in early planning stage, however, N8GNV, John, is deeply encouraged by the help and support he is receiving from the law enforcement and veterans community, as well as fellow GEARS members. The long term goal by the planners is to offer three class sessions, each of ten weeks duration. The FCC exam will be given during the tenth session. After the first ten week class, there will be a two month break, and then the second ten week session, and after another two month break, the third session.

Tim Wells W6TWI, is providing a power point instructional program for use with the students. Advertisements in the Glenn County and Butte County local papers are planned. Support and participation by and from local community service groups will also be sought.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE- TECHNICIAN CLASS)

While yet in the talking stages, the planning group has hopes that at some point in time the school districts will support and participate in after school Technician classes for interested students.

N8GNV-John



All GEARS members, and other Amateur Radio Operators who are interested and willing to lend a helping hand to this project are encouraged to contact John Hursey, N8GNV, at n8gnv@sbcglobal.net or 530-329-6713.

####

APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS

FEATHER RIVER HOSPITAL SEEKS AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS TO SIGN UP FOR AVAILABILITY TO THE HOSPITAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCIES. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DO SO, OR DESIRE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

TIM WELLS - W6TWI, 530-872-7427.



Courtesy: www.9h1mrl.org

**VEC TEST
SESSION WAS
AUGUST 2nd
AND AT NEW
LOCATION**

Due to the severe budget cuts imposed on The Butte County Library System, the Library Administration has rescinded their policy of allowing organizations to utilize their conference room on Sundays. Unfortunately this included G.E.A.R.S bimonthly usage of the facility for our testing sessions.

Lt. Dan Newman, courteously offered the Club use of the Butte County Search and Rescue Building for our testing purposes.

On August 2nd we had seven candidates for licensing; one individual qualified for Tech and immediately tested and upgraded to General.

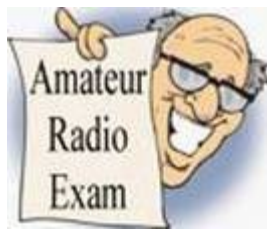
Congratulations to you all.

###

NOTED BY A GEARS MEMBER:

“WE UTILIZE VERY EXPENSIVE FREQUENCIES AS HAM OPERATORS, FREE TO US, AND ONE WAY TO RETURN THE BENEFIT IS THROUGH OUR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS”.

WELL SAID!!



G.E.A.R.S. DESIGNATION AS A VEC CLUB IS AN HONOR

Courtesy: www.9h1mrl.org

There are now fourteen VEC clubs in the entire United States. These clubs are permitted to perform or oversee the tests for Amateur Radio Licensing, transmit the results to the FCC, according to the original formal Memorandum of Understanding with that agency.

Prior to establishing VEC clubs, the original practice of the FCC required a hopeful licensee to travel to their nearest FCC office to take the test. Parties who lived an extreme distance from such an office could find a proctor, perhaps a police chief, or someone of stature in the community to give them the test. Such a practice raised obvious questions, such as to the qualifications of the tester, was the tester impartial, etc. In 1982 Public Law 97-259 was passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. This is the law which permitted the FCC to accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of licensed radio amateurs to serve in preparing and administering examinations for amateur radio licenses subsequently titled the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. In July, 1984, the FCC began certifying organizations to coordinate the efforts of volunteer examiners, and G.E.A.R.S. was so certified on March 26, 1985. Originally there were 16 organizations certified, today, there are 14.

Many of the VEC Clubs established “teams” of VE examiners to perform the tests, all in all there are presently over 1000 teams working as testing teams. These teams associate with the VEC Club, and are required to send to the VEC Club the results and paper work associated with tests they have performed. That Club or ARRL (if the team is sponsored by ARRL) reviews the tests and paper work, and files the information with FCC, who subsequently issues the Amateur license applicant his/her call sign.

The FCC requires every VE team to have at least three accredited examiners present at a session before any exam can be administered. Other rules also apply, such as not testing relatives etc. The rules emphasize integrity of the program; to avoid the slightest perception of impropriety.

GEARS does not establish teams with other clubs. All tests conducted are with the oversight and direction of our designated VEC individual. This practice simplifies the process of filing the test results with FCC, and allows more rapid turnaround in the issuance of the call sign to the successful candidate.

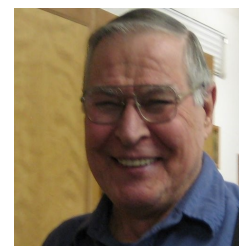
Gene Wright, WA6ZRT, is a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator...VEC for G.E.A.R.S. WA6ZRT obtained his license in 1961 while stationed as a Marine in Okinawa. It was two months before he received his license back from FCC; with GEARS program the turnaround of the license/call sign occurs in 1/10th of that time. Gene is a long term active member of GEARS, very knowledgeable in radio, electronics, an individual with widespread interests. He received the imprimatur of VEC from GEARS several years ago when William Van de kamp passed away and his wife, Jacqueline no longer desired to oversee the VEC responsibilities without “Willy”.

We are honored to hold VEC Club title.

(Credit for the information in this article to: W6ZRT-Gene Wright; W6BIN-Dick Westenholtm; and W6YKU-Jacqueline Van de Kamp



W6ZRT -Gene



W6BIN-Dick

Photo of W6YKU-Jacqueline not available

JULY ARES MEETING

July's monthly meeting of ARES, held at the Search and Rescue Building in Chico, was conducted by John Hursey N8GNV. These meetings are primarily training sessions, to familiarize ARES participants with standard field practices which are to be utilized in the event of local emergencies and when ARES members are asked to assist local agencies. N8GNV distributed a DVD to attendees which details the specifics of "Message Handling".

Members desiring the DVD may pick one up at any of the future ARES meetings.

WHAT IS ARES?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have volunteered for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership. There are four levels of ARES organization--national, section, district and local.

LOCAL LEVEL

It is at the local level where most of the real emergency organizing gets accomplished, because this is the level at which most emergencies occur and the level at which ARES leaders make direct contact with the ARES member-volunteers and with officials of the agencies to be served. For this reason the ARES training is of utmost importance to participants because, while operation in an emergency net is little different from operation in any other net, it does require preparation and training. This includes training in handling of written messages, what is generally known as "traffic handling." Handling traffic is covered in detail in the *ARRL Operating Manual*. This is required reading for all ARES members--in fact, for all amateurs aspiring to participate in disaster communications, however, the appropriate procedures cannot be picked up solely by reading or studying. There is no substitute for actual practice. Your emergency net should practice regularly--much more often than it operates in a real or simulated emergency. Avoid complacency, the feeling that you will know how to operate when the time comes. You won't, unless you do it frequently, with other operators whose style of operating you get to know.

N8GNV and the attendees covered in depth specific requirements for disaster communications, the purpose of such requirements, interspersed with some anecdotal commentary. All in all, an instructive and interesting meeting.

(some of the above adapted from ARRL manual)

ANNUAL CAMPOUT IS ON**AUGUST 21— 23**

Campout is at Lassen Church Camp, Mineral. This site provides several opportunities for campsites, or if you wish, you may quarter in a cabin. Showers and toilets are available. The charge is \$10.00 per night per person. Contact K6RCS- Randall Stone- to reserve your site.

Friday night is always potluck..bring your best dish! Saturday morning and Sunday morning K6RCS will flip pancakes; Members are on their own for lunch, however, Saturday night's meal is K06TW Ray Watkins famous barrel chicken!

If you have a special interest for a workshop, please contact K6RCS to share your idea'*(530)521-1318.

See page seven for some photos of past Campouts.

ITEMS FOR SALE

- 1) HF radio– FT 817nd - with a miracle antenna- \$450.00 ---**
- 2) Radio Shack pro 26 scanner - \$40.00**
- 3) Astron RS 20 amp power supply
\$50.00**
- 4) Radio Shack 3 amp switching power supply \$25.00**
- 5) Tungsten Palm with PC hookup & AC adapter \$50.00**

The above units were the property of Mike Madden, KG6HMJ, (sk) and are offered by his spouse, Mary.

Please Contact Tim Wells W6TWI (530) 872 7427, or

**In his absence, John Post AG7J
(530) 865 0260.**

**KO6HL
OCTOBEAM
CONSTRUCTION
PARTY**

(Courtesy KO6HL)



The antenna party on Saturday June 20, 2009 at the QTH of KO6HL was a success for the group that gathered to build a KO6HL *OctoBeam*. The party started promptly at 10:00 and included the following participants:

Bill, KO6HL
Harry, KI6JRY
Jeff, N6DZR
Albert, N6YCK

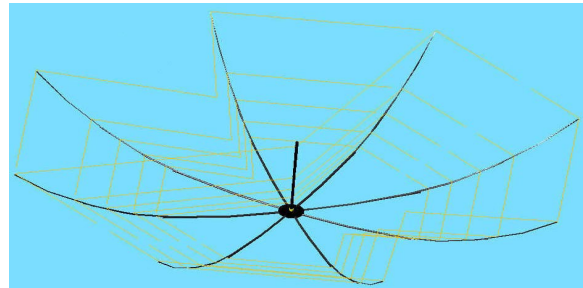
Assembly of the antenna began with the base plates and the tapered fiberglass spreaders and progressed smoothly to completion of the skeleton, including the integrated 5 band feed line and center post. The next step was to cut all the wire elements and add them starting closest to the base plate with the 10 meter wire elements and working upward with the addition of the 12 meter, 15 meter, 17 meter and 20 meter wire elements.

Finally, the coax was attached and a quick check for dips of minimum SWR on the MFJ antenna analyzer showed the driven elements to be slightly long as anticipated. Knowing that the next step would require raising the antenna to a height of at least 20 feet for another SWR check before any trimming the

group opted for a short break and snacks which included Bill's famous tomato and pepper salsa, homemade tortilla chips and ice cold lemonade made from crystal clear and delicious Forest Ranch well water.

The ambient temperature had risen significantly since the beginning of the party, so the group decided a little more lemonade and some more conversation would take the place of antenna tuning for the remainder of the party.

Bill wants to thank the group for their participation at the antenna party and would also like to give a big thumbs up to those at GEARS that make this newsletter a success.



Bill, KO6HL

P.S. We hams in Forest Ranch are currently experiencing some RFI we strongly believe is coming from faulty and/or dirty PG&E equipment in the area. Several of us have complained and have been promised results, but we get nothing. If you want more information you can contact myself (343-8389) or Jerry Fuller, W6JRY (343-1131).

BPL Continues to Rear Its Ugly Head

Broadband over power lines, or BPL, hasn't been in the news much lately, but make no mistake, there are companies out there still pushing it. Case in point is the article, ["Is This the Moment for Broadband Over Power Lines?"](#) by David Schneider, a senior editor for *IEEE Spectrum*.

Schneider writes:

One reason for the renewed interest in BPL is the Obama administration's pledge to provide greater Internet access to underserved Americans, even those living in rural areas, where other means of providing broadband typically aren't economical.

Last February's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide US \$2.5 billion in loans and grants through one agency and \$4.7 billion through another to expand broadband connections for residents of rural and underserved areas (as well as for public-safety agencies).

I've e-mailed my division director and ARRL HQ about this. I think the ARRL has done a good job of protecting our interests in this matter and hope the ham radio community would continue to support them in this battle. For more information on how BPL affects amateur radio (and other radiocommunication services, for that matter) and what you can do about it, visit the ARRL Web page, ["Broadband Over Power Line \(BPL\) and Amateur Radio."](#)



Campout campfire



A previous Campout Workshop



Some Campout Camp Sites



One of the Camp Cabins

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--|--|---|
| August 2nd Sunday | 2:00 | VEC test: | Butte County Search and Rescue; 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico | Gene Wright WA6ZRT 530 345 3515 John Post AG7J 530-865-0260 |
| Friday August 14 | 7:00 PM | Oroville Amateur Radio Society General Meeting | Oroville Adult Education Building, 78 Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville - | John Hunt K7XE@ARRL.NET (530) 589 4734 |
| Friday August 21-23 | All day | GEARS CAMP-OUT | Lassen Church Camp Mineral, CA | Randall Stone K6RCS 530-521-1318 |
| Friday August 28th | 7:00 p.m. | ARES Meeting | Butte Co. Search and Rescue 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico | Steve Kaps N6NPN (530) 345-7142 |
| August 28, 29, 30 | Daily | Chico Air Show | Chico Airport | RandallStone, K6RCX 530-521-1318 |
| September 18 | 5:00 pm | Steak Bake | Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park | TBA |
| October 16 | 6:30 | GEARS meeting Nominations for 2010 Officers | Butte County Search and Rescue Building, Chico | Randall Stone K6RCS 530 521 1318 |
| October 23 | 7:00 | ARES Meeting | Butte County Search and Rescue Building | Steve Kaps N6NPN (530) 345-7142 |
| November 20 | 6:30 p.m. | GEARS Meeting Nominations published-this meet | Butte County Search and Rescue Building, Chico | Randal Stone K6RCS 530 521 1318 |
| December | 5:30 p.m. | Election Officers Dinner & gift exchange | Butte County Search and Rescue Building | Randall Stone K6RCS |
| The Fourth Day of each Month | Dead-line! | The Radiator Submission Dead-line | Dorothy Post, dj@posthouse.us | Dorothy Post (530) 865 0260 |
| | | | | |

The GEARS Newsletter Staff:

Editor and Publisher.....Dorothy Post
 Printing & DistributionSuzanne Jessen KG6IZM
 Website.....Stephen McDermott W6AKF

The Radiator is a monthly publication of the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society (GEARS). It is the policy of the Editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio, of interest to GEARS members, and space is available. Please send all submissions to the Editor – Dorothy Post by the last day of the month through one of the following mediums:
 Home: P.O.Box 786, Orland, CA 95963 (530) 865 0260
 E-mail: dj@posthouse.us

Club Officers: (Board of Directors)

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 Vice President.....James Hilton KI6NKZ
 SecretaryKrista Gallwitz K6KEG
 Treasurer.....Lester Mikeworth KG6KUO
 Interim Treasurer.....Gene Wright WA6ZRT
 Past PresidentRay Watkins KO6TW
 Director.....Gene Wright WA6ZRT
 Director.....John Post AG7J
 Director.....Evelyn Weir K6QXC

Club Meetings

General Meeting Third Friday 6:30 PM
 Board Meeting Third Friday 9:00 PM

Club Net

Tuesdays 8:00 PM 146.850 MHz

Sacramento Valley Traffic Net

Nightly 9:00 PM 146.850 MHz

ARES Net

Butte Glenn Mondays 8:00 PM 146.850 MHz
 Yuba Sutter Thursdays 7:00 PM 146.085 MHz
 Meetings Fourth Friday 7:00 PM

Other Nets

Sac Valley

Section Net

7:00 PM 2nd Wed of

the month

146.085 MHz

440 Wed. Night 8:00 PM Wednesday 440.650 MHz

520 *Simplex* 8:00 PM Thursdays 146.520 MHz

Golden Bear 7:00 PM Daily 3975 kHz

Willie Net 8:00 PM Mondays 1930 kHz

Western Public Service System (WPSS)

Winter

Summer

5:00 – 7:30 PM

6:00 – 8:30 PM

3952 kHz

3952 kHz

ARISS (*International Space Station*)

Coming Hamfests:

August 15, 2009:

Southwestern Division Convention

Santa Barbara Arc

<http://www.sbarc.org>

Earl Warren Showground

Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS:

phone 805 687 8881

SACRAMENTO VALLEY HAMFEST

September 12, 2009

<http://www.svhamfest.org>

Contact Steve Harding 916 434 2878

kt6z@arrl.net

Location: Lincoln, CA; Lincoln High School

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October 17, 2009

<http://w6to.com>

Contact Tom Jarvis, 559 645 1816

kg6kyu@w6to.com

location: Fresno, CA

Salvation Army Event Center

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
GOLDEN EMPIRE AMATEUR
RADIO SOCIETY
OUR 70th YEAR*



Postage

P.O. Box 508
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Change Service Requested

Gears 70th Birthday August 13th!!